



AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

Population: Questions on Disability (P-15-17)

FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT DISABILITY

- The Social Security Administration uses these data to implement the Supplemental Social Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance programs which pay benefits to people with disabilities.
- The Department of Labor promotes employment of the disabled.
- The Department of Education administers special education programs based on disability data.
- Long-term care providers and community planners use these data when deciding where to locate facilities and services.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DATA ABOUT DISABILITY

- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act
- Workforce Investment Act
- The Fair Housing Act
- Veterans Health Care Eligibility Reform Act

QUESTIONS AS THEY APPEAR IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

15 Does this person have any of the following long-lasting conditions:

	Yes	No
a. Blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

16 Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more, does this person have any difficulty in doing any of the following activities:

	Yes	No
a. Learning, remembering, or concentrating?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

G Answer question 17 *ONLY* if this person is 15 years old or over. Otherwise, *SKIP* to the questions for *PERSON 2* on page 10.

17 Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more, does this person have any difficulty in doing any of the following activities:

	Yes	No
a. Going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's office?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Working at a job or business?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<www.census.gov/acs/www>

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Helping You Make Informed Decisions



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HISTORY OF THE DISABILITY QUESTIONS

- Questions on disability were asked from 1830-1930, and again from 1970-1990.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

These questions provide information that helps to define disability as a limitation in the ability to perform one or more major life activities.

The disability items obtain information about health conditions that limit an individual in activities such as working at a job, going outside the home alone, and taking care of personal needs such as bathing, dressing, or getting around inside the home. The individual activities are themselves of critical interest, and the ability to identify people with a limitation in one or more activities helps determine a valid overall measure of disability status.

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<www.census.gov/acs/www>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

1-888-456-7215

<cmo.acs@census.gov>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

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